

THE FACULTY OF MUSIC UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
AND
THE CANADIAN BROADCASTING CORPORATION
PRESENT

The
St. Lawrence
String Quartet

Geoff Nuttall & Barry Shiffman, violins

Lesley Robertson, viola

Marina Hoover, cello

with

guest pianist

YARON ROSS



Sunday, October 18, 1992

2:30 pm

Walter Hall - Edward Johnson Building

PROGRAMME

Two Waltzes from Op. 54
Moderato
Allegro vivace

Antonín Dvořák
(1841 - 1904)

String Quartet, Op. 61 in C Major
Allegro
Poco adagio e molto cantabile
Scherzo: Allegro vivo
Finale: Vivace

Antonín Dvořák

◆ INTERMISSION ◆

Piano Quartet, Op. 87 in E flat Major
Allegro con fuoco
Lento
Allegro moderato
Finale, Allegro ma non troppo

Antonín Dvořák

Yaron Ross, piano



This afternoon's concert will be broadcast at a later date on the
CBC STEREO programme ARTS NATIONAL (94.1 FM).

The host of ARTS NATIONAL is Augusta LaPaix

Neil Crory, Producer
David Burnham, Recording Engineer
Rob Selmanovic, Technician



PROGRAMME NOTES

All three of the pieces on this evening's programme were written in the 1880's when the middle aged Dvořák was a well-established composer.

In 1880, just days after the birth of his daughter Anna, Dvořák wrote a series of *Waltzes* for piano. He later arranged these for strings. While they appear to be modelled after Schubert, a composer for whom Dvořák had a great affinity, the Bohemian melody and rhythms make them unmistakably his own.

The *String Quartet, Op. 61 in C Major* from 1881 reflects an introspective period for the composer. As well as struggling to achieve expressive power in his music, he was experiencing religious doubts and considered leaving his native country for America. The four movements are characterised by a broader than average tonal range and by thematic links between the first and third movements.

The *Piano Quartet, Op. 87 in E flat Major* from 1889 is one of the composer's most imaginative works. The first movement is marked by an eerie tremolando version of the main theme that is passed from instrument to instrument just before the end, while the second movement is distinguished by a plaintive piano theme and syncopation in the strings. The third movement imitates a folk instrument and a rustic style, and the fourth, in the tonic minor, is a good-humoured finale.

Jacqueline Warwick
History and Literature IV



Today's concert is the first of two programmes which the *St. Lawrence String Quartet* will perform in their series at the Faculty of Music. On February 21st, 1993 the Quartet will be joined by violist *Terrence Helmer* in a programme which includes Haydn, Schoenberg and Mozart.

TODAY'S ARTISTS

The **ST. LAWRENCE STRING QUARTET** was formed in the fall of 1989 when they studied in a program jointly sponsored by the University of Toronto and The Royal Conservatory of Music with coaches cellist, Denis Brott and violinist, Lorand Fenyves. Currently based in New York City they are appointed "Quartet in Residence" at the Juilliard School of Music, which includes coaching from the Juilliard String Quartet.

The St. Lawrence String Quartet, on April 25, 1992, won the prestigious Banff International String Quartet Competition. The St. Lawrence was awarded first prize after a week-long competition in which nine quartets from five countries participated.

In the summer of 1991, the St. Lawrence String Quartet was awarded top prizes in the Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition in Australia and the Glory of Mozart Chamber Music Competition in Canada.

Highlights of upcoming events for the quartet will include their New York City debut at 92nd Street Y, the Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C. and over 60 performances throughout Canada and the United States.

The St. Lawrence String Quartet is generously supported by The Canada Council Touring Office, the Government of Ontario through the Ontario Arts Council and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. The St. Lawrence String Quartet is managed in Canada by Andrews & Kwan Artists Management, Toronto.

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Office des tournées

YARON ROSS was born in Tel-Aviv, Israel in 1950. He studied at the Tel-Aviv University under the internationally acclaimed pianist, the late Mindru Katz. In 1975 and 1976 respectively he won first prize in the Tel-Aviv Academy Master Competition for chamber music and solo performance. In the following two years he concertized extensively in Israel giving solo recitals and appearing as soloist with orchestra; he has also recorded for Israeli and European broadcasting organizations.

Since his arrival in Canada in 1978, Mr. Ross has been heard regularly in recital and has recorded for both French and English networks of the CBC. He appeared several times with the McGill Chamber Orchestra. In 1983 he made his New York debut at Carnegie Recital Hall. During the 1985/86 season Mr. Ross performed the complete cycle of the Mozart Piano Sonatas in a series of five recitals. Mr. Ross is a professor of Piano and Theory at Concordia University, Montreal.

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